

**Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch
2nd Quarter Report; EPA Region IX
Jan – Mar 2014**

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Training/Conference attended:

There were no out of state trainings or conferences attended by staff during this period.

Personnel:

- EHS Ann Kam (Kauai) continues on temporary assignment as the supervisor to enforcement inspectors Lester Chin (Maui) and Chris Gerken (Hawaii Island).
- A request to fill the vacant position of Glenn Sahara has been initiated. This request goes to the office of the Governor for approval. After approval the request then goes to the State Personnel Office for processing.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) approved by EPA Region 9.

HDOA received notice of approval for its Pesticide Enforcement QAPP. This document described in comprehensive detail the necessary quality assurance (QA), quality control (QC), and other technical activities that must be implemented to ensure that the results of all pesticide inspection and enforcement activities satisfy stated performance criteria. HDOA staff worked diligently on rewriting and updating SOPs in various sections. This document is valid for a five year period.

Consulting Services.

At the request of the HDOA Board Chair, preliminary discussions have taken place with consultants to integrate three separate databases in the Pesticide Branch that presently do not interface with each other. The HDOA is seeking approval from the Governor's office to fund this project that will create one information system within the Pesticide Branch for greater efficiency and to improve access to pesticides related information internally and to the public. This will be a phased in approach to be completed over a 9 month period at a cost of \$284,000. Approval from the Governor is expected in April 2014.

Legislative:

SENATE BILL NO. 2110 SD2 HD1

- This bill would appropriate funds to increase pesticide education and enforcement action with the addition of 8 new positions proposed by the HDOA. These positions are; 2 education specialists (one each on Maui and Kauai), 5 enforcement inspectors (single additional inspectors for Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island, and 2 more for the Oahu office) and 1 additional case developer to assist in the processing of inspection and investigative reports.

Act 105 from last year.

- Requires that the HDOA post on its website public information on restricted use pesticide (sales) reports and records submitted to the HDOA. We continue to work with our Attorney General to determine information from sales records that are to be redacted to protect confidential business information or significant private information. No date set when posting will occur on HDOA website.

REGISTRATION/LICENSING:

Licensing

A total of 410 products were licensed with fees totaling \$135,300. Of these, 164 were renewals for the 2014-2016 license period.

Special Local Needs

Just one SLN was issued this quarter.

SLN HI-140001 for use of Lime-Sulfur Solution (61842-30) on pineapple, post-harvest, for control of saprophytic molds.

Section 18

None issued.

Endangered Species Review

No informal Section 7 consultations were requested. However, the consultation requests sent to FWS last quarter for 4 rodenticide SLNs are still pending. It appears that these requests will have to go to Biological Opinion/Formal request.

Groundwater Reviews

3 reviews were complete this quarter:

1. EPTC (Gowan). Exceeded our initial threshold so data was run through CLERS tool. Results were either "unlikely" or "uncertain" for leachability. No further review required.
2. Cyantraniliprole (DuPont). Due to environmental fate characteristics, use pattern, and CLERS results of "likely" to leach, a full groundwater review must be conducted. Dupont was notified and data has been received. A purchase order must be processed. Will work on when I return.
3. Cyproconazole (Syngenta). Did not exceed threshold during initial review. No further review needed.

3 EUPs Issued

1. EUP-14-01. Exp. 05/06/14. For use of Sharpen (7969-278), Hawaii licensed, as a broadcast treatment on soybean. Genetically segregate rows to assess crop injury. Seed harvested used for additional trials, lab testing, & research purposes only. BASF
2. EUP-14-02. Exp. 05/06/14. For use of Armezon (7969-262), Hawaii licensed, as a broadcast treatment on soybean. Genetically segregate rows to assess crop injury. Seed harvested used for additional trials, lab testing, & research purposes only. BASF
3. EUP-14-03. Exp. 03/31/15. For use of Demon Max (100-1218) mixed with Prentox Pro-8 (655-736), Hawaii licensed, as a ground drench on soil & mulch to test efficacy against Coconut Rhinoceros beetle. HDOA

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS LABORATORY (CAL):

- A total of 58 tests were run for 7 samples pertaining to 2 enforcement cases this quarter. All of these samples were finished by the LC/MS equipment.
- Formulation SOP was submitted as a final part of HDOA Pesticide Branch's QAPP to EPA Region 9.
- The LC/MS lab equipment broke down at the end of January due to failure of a detector part. This model is obsolete and the process for securing bids to do repair work is very cumbersome as there are so few vendors to provide this repair service.

EDUCATION/CERIFICATION:**Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:**

- A total of 22 statewide certification examination sessions were held.
- One hundred twenty-three (123) examinees were tested in Private applicator or Commercial applicator categories.
- Out of these examinations, 13 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 3 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.
- Forty-four (44) certified applicators collectively earned 242.5 recertification credits by taking quizzes.
- Eleven (11) CET training classes were held and attended by 312 certified applicators. These attendees collectively earned 344.5 recertification credits.

Worker Safety Program Work plan:

- Nine (9) Worker Protection Standard training sessions were provided to these farms or groups: Contemporary Landscaping, Mola'a Organicca, Glory Herb, Kalani Farm, Sumida Farm, Kauai Kunana Inc., Tran Ho Farms LLC., Tedeschi Vineyards, and Noel Escobedo Farm. A total of 34 individuals participated in the WPS agricultural worker or handler trainings.

Other trainings/technical assistance provided by Pesticide Education staff included topics on:

- Proper Pesticide Use and Safety – HDOA Hilo Office
- Pesticide Law and Regulations, PPE – HDOA Hilo Office
- RUP Recordkeeping requirements, Nanea Golf Course,
- Pesticide Storage requirements – ML Macadamia Orchards
- Pesticide Product review with Ohana Greenhouse
- Pesticide label comprehension with Aloha Termite Pest Control Operators, Big Island rancher
- Pollinator Protection – Molokai Island
- Fumigation Management Plan – Green Point Nurseries, Inc.

A total of 97 individuals attended these trainings.

- Preparation for a series of Farmer Resource Workshops is being planned beginning in April 2014. These resource workshops spearheaded by the HDOA Pesticide Branch education section are to be held on Oahu, Big Island, Kauai and Maui and brings together various agencies and organizations to talk about resources for the farming community. Active participants include: The US Department of Labor – Wage & Hour Division, US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, College of Tropical Agriculture Coop Extension Service and Farm Food Safety Program, Hawaii Department of Health Food and Drug and Clean Water Branch, City and County of Honolulu Agricultural Liaison, Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program, Office of Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, HDOA's Ag Loan Division, Ag Market Development Branch, Ag Resource Management Division, and Quality Assurance Division, Commodities Branch, Agrilogic Insurance Services, LLC, Paina Hawaii, LLC, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Kauai County Office of Economic Development and Maui County Office of Economic Development.

ENFORCEMENT:

Oahu:

- On Oahu, EHS Matsumura met with a complainant D. Mikami. Mikami said that an unknown person was applying pesticides inside the trunk of his car. Swab samples were taken but were eventually returned to Mikami because there was no information provided by Mikami to determine what pesticides to test for.

- D. Mikami filed another complaint concerning the application of herbicide along a fire road next to his property line. It is suspected that an applicator from the University of Hawaii applied Roundup Weed and Grass Killer to a fire road owned by the University of Hawaii at Manoa, however spray drift occurred to property owned by D. Mikami
- Two Malathion odor complaints were followed up on. The source of the first complaint was a plastic bottle of Malathion being stored in the sun and exposed to the rain. Vapor may have vented from the sun heated container.
- The second complainant involved a Malathion like chemical odor in the Kailua neighborhood. The odor was determined to have originated from shrubs treated with a pesticide by the complainant's gardener for scale insect. The complainant did not want to file a complaint against her gardener.
- A television report of a fish kill involving many Koi and Tilapia at Olomana Gardens in Waimanalo triggered a response by the pesticides staff. The complainant first contacted the Department of Health, Clean Water Branch who responded and collected water samples. No toxicants were detected in the water. Dr. Lei Yamasaki of HDOA's Veterinary Laboratory conducted a necropsy on the dead fish provided by the complainant. No unusual signs were seen in the fish. Also removed were organs from the Koi and Tilapia, and results from our laboratory did not detect any Fipronil or Pyrethroids. No source of the toxicant was identified.

Maui/Molokai:

- There have been four pesticide use complaints for this quarter. Two of the complaints were regarding spray applications of Alexander & Baldwin, LLC dba Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. The first complaint of this year involved an herbicide application made in December 2013. The drift complaint involved a field adjacent to a Paia residential area. On the day noted, both tractor boom sprayers and backpack spray gang were in the field. The complainant sent images of plants that suggest herbicide spray damage. When asked what the complainant and neighbor wanted out of the complaint, they requested to be notified so they could close windows and leave for the day. There is a suspected violation of exceeding the rate of application.
- A complainant claims that after a spray application, she experienced respiratory problems. The complainant did not visit a medical facility. The complainant alleged that when she asked the applicator what was being applied, she heard "*paraquat*." Complainant submitted a digital image of blackened vegetation after spray application. The site of application was at a vacant lot. The applicator stated that a glyphosate-based herbicide was applied. A pesticide storage check found a number of turf herbicides, but no paraquat-based herbicide. Environmental samples and spray tank swab samples were taken. These samples are pending analysis
- A complaint was filed by a homeowner living in a townhouse complex on the misuse of a snail/slug bait in common areas (a.i. metaldehyde). Complainant requested that bait be cleaned up due to possible ingestion by children and pets. Applicator later put about a fifteen inch tall fencing material around affected areas about two days later in response to the complaint. Some areas of fencing showed sagging. Complex is moving towards greener/less toxic control methods in future.

Kauai:

- The Good Neighbor Policy reporting began on December 1, 2013. Several seed corn and one coffee company began submitting RUP use reports to the HDOA Pesticides Branch on a monthly basis. Report data can be found at this website: <https://data.hawaii.gov/Health/Kauai-i-Agricultural-Good-Neighbor-Program-RUP-Use-/9pud-c8q5>
- During the second quarter, EHS Victoria Matsumura from Oahu assisted Ann Kam in conducting use investigations. Five compliance verification follow-up inspections were conducted in addition to five organic farm WPS Tier II inspections.
- Paraquat poisoning of 4 dogs and 1 cat in Kalaheo resulted in a front page story in the local paper. A paraquat audit and use inspection for all purchasers of Gramoxone was initiated. Kauai Coffee, Dow AgroSciences, Pioneer Hi Bred International (Research & Parent Seed), Syngenta and BASF were all inspected.

Hawaii Island:

- There were no complaints received at the office during this period.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

IPM In Schools:

The Department of Education Facilities reported that the Pest Control Company for the IPM Pilot Project has conducted training for staff at the Ala Wai Elementary School.

Development of WPS Handler and Worker narrated slideshow.

Work continues on the development of a written script in English with the next phase having translators convert the English script into Ilocano, Laotian, Mandarin, Cantonese and Tagalog. We anticipate completing this slide show before the end of the program year.

Development of IPM informational booklet for local public schools Grades 1 – 5: On-going development activity.

Development of Crop Grouping for mobile app: On-going activity. Discussed concept with staff. Will seek out vendor to further develop.

Development of Label Search: On-going activity.

Endangered Species Protection Work plan:

(No activities scheduled)